

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-09

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R 091133Z JAN 76

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6587

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

AMCONSUL UDORN

COMUSMACTHAI

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 0563

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, PFOR, TH

SUBJ: THE RE-EMERGENCE OF GENERAL KRIANGSAK: ENTER THE
PHOENIX

REF: BANGKOK 0117 (DTG 050749Z JAN 76)

1. COMUSMACTHAI HAS RECEIVED A LETTER DATED 7
JANUARY FROM RTARF SUPREME COMMANDER, ADMIRAL
SA-NGAT CHALOYU, APPOINTING GENERAL KRIANGSAK
CHOMANAN AS OFFICIAL POINT OF CONTACT BETWEEN
SUPREME COMMAND AND MACTHAI/JUSMAG. FOLLOWING
IS TEXT OF LETTER. BEGIN TEXT. I WANT TO TAKE
THIS OPPORTUNITY TO NOMINATE GENERAL KRIANGSAK
CHOMANAN AS MY OFFICIAL POINT OF CONTACT BETWEEN
SUPREME COMMAND HEADQUARTERS AND USMACTHAI/JUSMAGTHAI.
PARA THE TIME HAS COME FOR CLEAR, CONCISE, AND
EFFECTIVE LINES OF COMMUNICATION AND COORDINATION
BETWEEN OUR HEADQUARTERS. TIMES HAVE INDEED CHANGED,
BRINGING TO THE FOREFRONT AN URGENT REQUIREMENT
TO IDENTIFY, STAFF, AND CORRECT PROBLEM AREAS IN
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THE MOST EXPEDITIOUS MANNER POSSIBLE. THIS ALSO

MEANS A CONTINUING, CLOSE PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIP MUST BE MAINTAINED AMONG THE VARIOUS SECTIONS OF BOTH HEADQUARTERS. PARA TO THIS END, I WILL ENTRUST GENERAL KRIANGSAK WITH THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR INSURING THAT OUR TWO HEADQUARTERS COORDINATE TOGETHER WITH A MAXIMUM AMOUNT OF EFFICIENCY AND SPEED AND A MINIMUM AMOUNT OF ERROR. END TEXT.

2. COMMENT: THE PHOENIX-LIKE REAPPEARANCE OF KRIANGSAK AND THE APPARENT USURPTION OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR DEALINGS WITH THE US MILITARY FROM HIS SUCCESSOR AT SUPREME COMMAND HEADQUARTERS (FORWARD) GENERAL CHAROEN PONGPANICH, LENDS CREDENCE TO INDICATIONS FROM OUR SOURCE AT SUPREME COMMAND THAT THE FORWARD SECTION MAY SOON DISAPPEAR. THE SAME SOURCE HAS REPORTED THAT, TO REPLACE IT AND THE RECENTLY DISSOLVED TACC (SEE REFTTEL), ADMIRAL SA-NGAT HAS GIVEN HIS BLESSINGS TO THE REDESIGNATION OF SCHQ(F) AS THE JOINT COORDINATION CENTER (JCC) WITHIN SUPREME COMMAND ITSELF. IN HIS STRUGGLE TO RETAIN HIS POSITION AS RTG GO-BETWEEN WITH THE US MILITARY, KRIANGSAK MAY BE MANEUVERING TO CONTROL THE NEW JCC, MUCH AS HE USED SCH(F) IN THE PAST.

3. AFTER THE FOREGOING WAS TYPED IN FINAL, WE LEARNED THAT AT A MEETING WITH COMUSMACHTHAI ON 9 JANUARY 1976, ADMIRAL SA-NGAT CONFIRMED THAT HE DID IN FACT WANT TO ELIMINATE SUPREME COMMAND HEADQUARTERS (FORWARD). ON THE MATTER OF GENERAL KRIANGSAK BEING THE SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT, COMUS SUGGESTED AND SA-NGAT AGREED THAT THE J-STAFFS OF MACTHAI AND SUPREME COMMAND WORK JOINTLY IN RESOLVING ROUTINE MATTERS BETWEEN THE TWO HEADQUARTERS. POLICY MATTERS AND ANY NEW MAJOR REQUIREMENTS WOULD BE SURFACED WITH GENERAL KRIANGSAK PRIOR TO ASSIGNMENT TO THE JOINT STAFFS FOR DETAILED RESOLUTION. IT IS EXPECTED THAT GENERAL KRIANGSAK WILL OPPOSE THIS PROCEDURE AS IT ERODES SIGNIFICANTLY HIS CONTROL OVER US MILITARY QUESTIONS WHICH HAS BEEN HIS BASIS OF POWER FOR MANY YEARS.

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